

BODEGAS OSTATU RIOJA ALAVESA GRAN RESERVA

Tempranillo and Graciano, from vines planted in 1945. Elegant and perfumed, with complex aromas and flavors. Ample fruit, ripe tannins, excellent acidity and freshness. Historically long-lived, with the ability to age gracefully for decades. Practicing organic.

A single-vineyard Gran Reserva from El Rincón, one of Ostatu's oldest vineyards, planted in 1945. Located in the heart of Rioja Alavesa, near the village of Samaniego on a small south-facing slope, at an altitude of 600m. El Rincón has poor clay soils with a limestone-rich subsoil. The grapes are harvested by hand, with only the best bunches selected. The grapes are destemmed with a brief intracellular cold fermentation, followed by crushing and fermentation with native yeasts in temperature-controlled stainless-steel vats, followed by malolactic fermentation in new French oak barrels. Aged 24 months in 1 and 2-year-old barrels and an additional 5 months in old foudres. Bottled unfined and unfiltered

The Sáenz de Samaniego family has been farming in the area since the 16th century — for so many generations, in fact, that their family name and the village's name are the same. Grapes have been grown at the winery for over 250 years. Ostatu is located in an 18th-century structure in the foothills of the Sierra de Cantabria range which was a former country inn where travelers would stop for nourishment and rest on their way across the mountainous Basque Country. In 1970, husband and wife, Doroteo and María Asunción Sáenz de Samaniego began bottling the first Ostatu *cosechero* wines, utilizing the whole-cluster, carbonic maceration style which is historic to the Rioja Alavesa region. Upon realizing the exceptional quality of their vineyards and potential, the winery was modernized in 2002 by four of their six children: Mariasun, Gonzalo, Iñigo, and Ernesto. They produce distinctive, high-quality Rioja with dedication to tradition & creative innovation.

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Tasting Note:

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Shelf Talker:

